

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

S E C R E T STATE 296191

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINS, PINT, GV, US, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET SURVEILLANCE DEPLOYMENTS AND GUINEAN REQUEST FOR PROTECTION

REF: A) CONAKRY 2326, B) BONN 20188

1. REF A REPORTED SEVERAL MISLEADING STATEMENTS BY GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TO FRG MINISTER OF STATE WISCHNEWSKI CONCERNING SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS OUT OF GUINEA AND GUINEA'S DESIRE FOR A SECURITY GUARANTEE. UNLESS EMBASSY PERCEIVES OBJECTION, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BRIEF FRG FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS (WEVER) LEST THERE BE ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT US POLICY. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS.

2. WE INFORMED THE GOG THAT THE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS OUT OF CONAKRY ARE DIRECTED AGAINST U.S. FLEET MOVEMENTS AND THAT THEY ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH GUINEAN PROFESSIONS OF NON-ALIGNMENT. WE EXPLAINED TO THE GOG THAT THE

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SOVIET FLIGHTS DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO GUINEA'S SECURITY BY

SURVEYING GUINEA'S BORDERS.

3. THE GOG TOLD US THAT THEY WOULD TERMINATE THE FLIGHTS IF WE OFFERED THEM A SECURITY GUARANTEE. IN RESPONSE TO THE GUINEAN REQUEST WE INFORMED THEM THAT WE HAD DONE A STUDY OF THE EXTERNAL SECURITY THREAT TO GUINEA, WHICH INCLUDED CONSULTATIONS WITH GUINEA'S NEIGHBORS, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE ARE NO CREDIBLE EXTERNAL THREATS TO GUINEA'S SECURITY. WE NOTED THAT GUINEA'S OWN SECURITY FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF REPELLING AN ATTACK BY ANY ARMY WITHIN THE REGION. THE GUINEAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE ARE BETTER EQUIPPED THAN THE SERVICES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. GUINEAN EXILE ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT HAVE THE REQUISITE FINANCIAL, MILITARY AND LOGISTICAL CAPABILITIES TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK AGAINST GUINEA. WE HAVE ALSO TOLD THE GUINEANS THAT WHILE WE SUPPORT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SECURITY GUARANTEE FOR ANY ONE COUNTRY.

4. WE DO NOT INTEND TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TOURE'S AMBIGUOUS REQUEST FOR A SECURITY GUARANTEE AND SUSPECT HE KNOWS FULL WELL THAT WE COULD NOT PROVIDE THE TYPE OF ASSURANCES HE SEEKS. THE FLIGHTS MAY WELL BE A QUID PRO QUO FOR THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN GUINEA, INCLUDING THE SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE, WHICH SEKOU TOURE APPARENTLY REGARDS AS ESSENTIAL TO HIS SECURITY. KISSINGER

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